

British Columbia's Revelstoke Wolverine Research Update: Most mortality of wolverines reported to date in this study were from trapped and road killed incidences. The only wolverine mortality documented as natural was one animal that died of starvation. Male wolverines are much more mobile and tended to utilize harvested units, roads, etc. to a greater degree than females; females tended to stay in more remote areas within the study area.

Dr. Kerry Forsman (U. of Montana) Update on Testing proposed Zielinski/Kucera survey methods: Forsman has discovered that fisher populations he deemed "very good" in numbers are located throughout the Bitterroots where he is doing the study.

Activity patterns based on camera detections: wolverines are more active during daylight; fisher and pine marten more active during night. Camera use: Forsman recommends camera monitoring for 30 days minimum; must accommodate nocturnal visitations as well.

Forsman observed that during his trials using track plates, marten tend to avoid the stations that fisher are visiting...fishers will kill marten. Forsman said that COYOTES AND MOUNTAIN LION TRACKS WERE COMMON AT ALL SETS EVERY DAY BASED ON TRACKS IN SNOW.

Evelyn Bull - Oregon Marten Study: One-third of study area in unharvested, "unmanaged" condition; two-thirds were in managed landscape. Home ranges for male marten were about 800 acres in the managed landscape...smaller in unmanaged landscape. Rest sites used by marten included tree platforms created by "witches brooms" in spruce and subalpine firs mostly. Rest sites (including subnivean "beneath snow") always were associated with downed large hollow logs or smaller downed logs. Some resting sites included broken topped cavities or pileated woodpecker cavities. Some resting sites occurred in rock talus, burrows etc.

Locations of marten were in the following successional stages: old growth - 39%, late successional - 30%, mid-structure - 27%, and 4% in other. Best baits for marten trapping/detection were found to be deer or elk meat. Bull concludes that when young marten disperse into managed or hotly burned areas, they become more susceptible to predation by aerial raptors such as goshawk and great horned owls due to cover loss.

Jeff Copeland's Idaho Wolverine Study: Copeland finding that wolverines use ALL types of habitat but disproportionately use high elevation ROCK dominated habitats (summer) and lower elevation lodgepole & douglas fir cover types (winter). Winter habitat use, though in lower elevations, is seldom down to lower ends of big game winter ranges...usually just above wintering concentrations of big game.

High elevation, subalpine cirque basins are thought important for natal denning and protection from human activities. Females very sensitive to human presence at natal dens....the implication being that snowmobile and heli-skiing (on some national forests) may constitute a risk to wolverine habitat. Efforts are underway by Rolly Redmond to GIS-identify highest risk areas based on habitat selection profiles.

An evaluation of the total research findings available on Wolverine, fisher, marten and lynx found that LYNX appear to be least studied at present.

Notes summarized by G.S. Blair

MESSAGE SCAN FOR JOANNE BONN

To District Bios

From: Steve Blair:R01F17A

Postmark: Apr 25,96 10:29 AM

Delivered: Apr 25,96 10:39 AM

Status: Previously read

Subject: Update of findings from Western Forest Carnivor Committee Meeting

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Comments:

FYI....

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